Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SS-15 CPR-01 SCA-01 INSE-00 EB-07

NSC-05 /042 W

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R 140858Z APR 76 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8470

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 5511

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3 TAGS: CIVS, PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR JCP DIET MEMBERS

REF: A) STATE 078545; (B) TOKYO 4660

1. IN RESPONSE TO OUR APPROACH PER REFTEL A, FOREIGN OFFICE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION HAS INFORMED US THAT FONOFF ISSUES OFFICIAL PASSPORTS TO JCP DIET MEMBERS ON THE SAME BASIS AS IT DOES TO MEMBERS OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES. OVERSEAS TRAVEL OF MEMBERS OF EITHER HOUSE OF THE DIET, WHILE THE DIET IS IN SESSION, MUST BE APPROVED BY THE UPPER OR LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE. WHEN SUCH APPROVAL IS GRANTED, THE DIET SECRETARIAT ISSUES A LETTER TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OUTLINING THE OFFICIAL NATURE OF THE TRAVEL AND REQUESTING AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT AND THE REQUISITE VISAS. ON RECEIPT OF SUCH LETTERS, THE FONOFF ISSUES AN OFFICIAL PASSPORT AND PREPARES NOTES VERBALE TO THE EMBASSY(S) CONCERNED. PASSPORTS ISSUED UNDER THESE PROCEDURES ARE VALID FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE RESPECTIVE DIET MEMBER. (DURING DIET RECESSES, STEERING COMMITTEE PERMISSION IS NOT REQUIRED AND THE DIET SECRETARIAT SIMPLY TRANSMITS REQUESTS FOR OFFICIAL PASSPORT SERVICES TO THE FONOFF.) THE EXCEPTION TO THESE PROCEDURES IS APPLICATION FOR TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA WHICH IS HANDLED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. PASSPORTS VALIDATED FOR TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA ARE LIMITED TO ONE-TIME USE. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. FONOFF NOTED THAT IT HAD NO AUTHORITY TO ALTER ITS STANDING PROCEDURES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF PASSPORTS TO DIET MEMBERS. HODGSON	
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: LEGISLATORS, TRAVEL CONTROLS, COMMUNISTS, VISAS, VISITS

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To: STATE

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